



RAVALLI COUNTY ATTORNEY

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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November 28, 2007

Leslie Ann McGuire
3542 Eastside Hwy.
Stevensville, MT. 59870

Re: October 25, 2007 Letter (Loss of Livestock)

Dear Ms. McGuire:

I received your letter and discussed the matter with the Sheriff's Office. From reading your letter and that discussion the following seems clear:

- Deputy McElderry was driving on Eastside Hwy.
- Deputy McElderry saw two sheep in the roadway that were obstructing traffic.
- Deputy McElderry exited his vehicle and managed to force the two sheep through the open gate at which time he closed that gate to keep those sheep from getting back on Eastside Hwy.
- Deputy McElderry saw no other sheep present.

While I appreciate your concern and I understand your distress over the loss of your lamb, I believe the Sheriff's Office acted entirely appropriately by closing the gate behind the only visible sheep to prevent them from running back out. Perhaps, if you had notified someone that there was an extra lamb out there, this matter could have been prevented. The Deputy performed admirably with the information he had.

I do not believe that the Ravalli County Sheriff's Office in any way caused the loss of your lamb. As such, we will not reimburse you for your loss. Once again, I am truly sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,

Alex Beal

Deputy Ravalli County Attorney

AB/dp

Cc: Chris Hoffman, Ravalli County Sheriff
Ravalli County Commissioners

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